

TRANSFERRAL

To: Outpatient Hospital Laboratory Providers and Independent Labs

Re: Hospital Specimens Sent to Independent Laboratories

Effective for claims billed on or after May 15, 2006, Medicaid will adopt Medicare's policy that allows hospital labs to bill for services on behalf of the reference lab that a specimen is sent to for analysis. The referring hospital (facility) must not send out more than 30% of the clinical laboratory tests for which it receives requests for testing during the year. It is the responsibility of the hospital to ensure that the independent lab does not also bill Medicaid for these services. If you have any questions about this alert, you may contact Jerri Jackson, RN, BSN, Associate Director, Institutional Services by phone at (334) 242-5630 or via e-mail at jerri.jackson@medicaid.alabama.gov.

May 15, 2006